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BLISTER RUST NEWS SERVICE

Clip Sheet No. 9

(Not to be released before January 15, 1924.)
(To be used by Editors as fill-ins.)

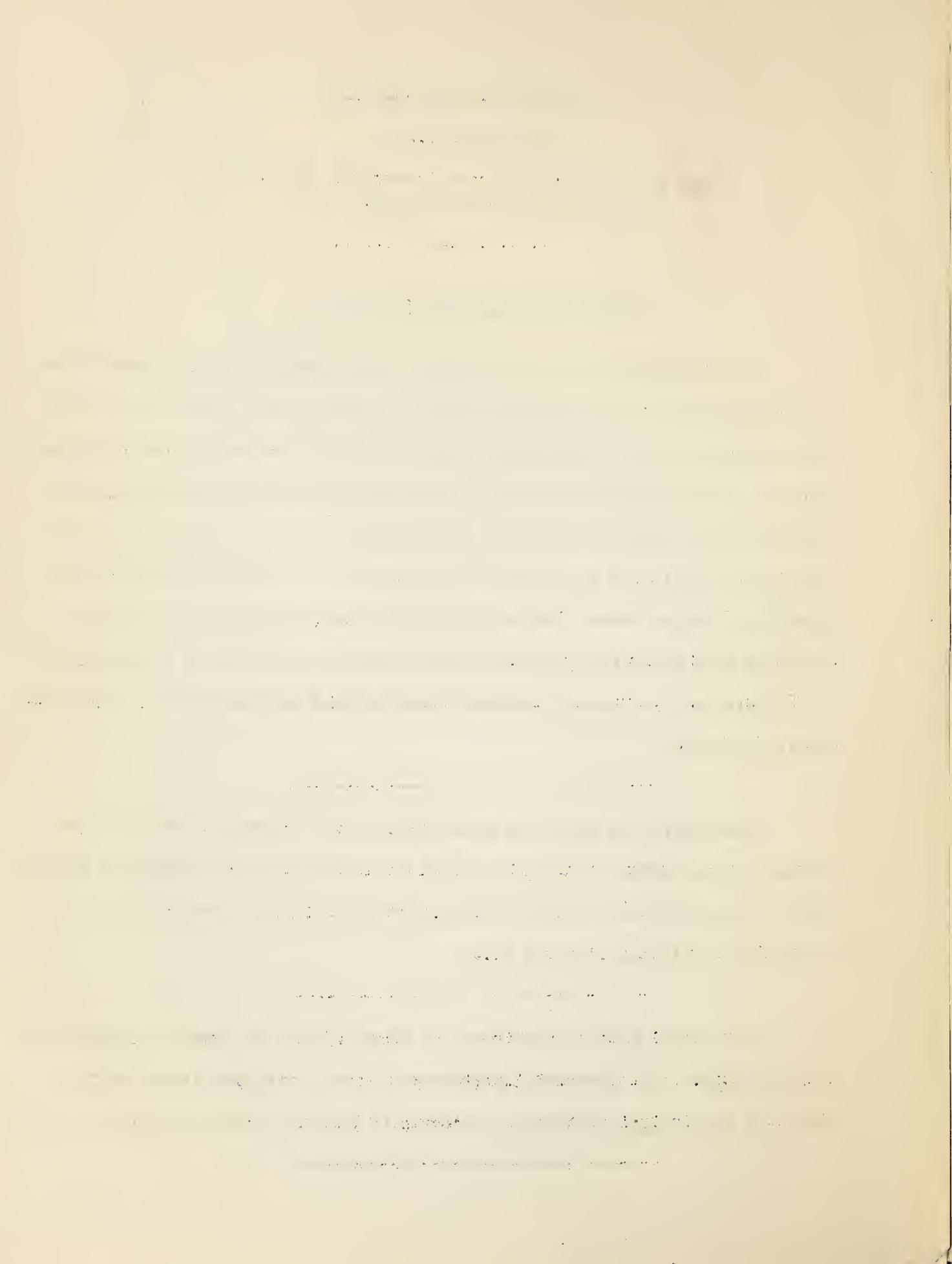
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LET THE MOTHER TREES DO THE WORK.

The protection of our white pine forests from the blister rust by the destruction of currant and gooseberry bushes, the weed plants of the forest that harbor the rust, would enable the old mother trees to keep on producing healthy youngsters. If these bushes are not pulled up around the old pines all the little seedling pines will catch the blister rust and die. The old mother tree will also be killed sooner or later if the infected currant and gooseberry bushes remain. The securing of a good stand of young seedlings from old seed trees is advocated by most foresters. Artificial reforestation by planting is, of course, necessary where natural seeding cannot be satisfactorily obtained.

Gooseberry pie from wild gooseberries must be omitted from the menu served in the northern states if we are to continue to grow white pine timber. The wild currant and gooseberry belong in the same family and all of them harbor the white pine blister rust.

White pine lumber is utilized in 45 out of the 52 wood-using industries of the country. The commercial importance of our white pine timber supply makes it exceedingly important to protect it from the white pine blister rust.



If we are to continue to have good, cheap, wooden boxes and crates to ship our merchandise in, pine owners must protect their white pine crop from the blister rust. According to the Forest Service there were 1 billion 131 million feet of white pine lumber used by the box making industry in 1918.

To insure a white pine crop against the blister rust, destroy the currants and gooseberries within 900 feet of the pines.

In 1923 more than 800,000 acres were cleared of currants and gooseberries to protect white pine from the blister rust. The average cost was less than 20 cents per acre. This is an increase of more than 318,000 acres over the previous year.

